

House Republican Press Release

April 6, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Greene Hails State Response In Terrorism Test



Hartford, CT- State Rep. Len Greene, R-105th, today hailed the response of federal, state, local officials to a massive terrorism response exercise held April 4-8 in Connecticut, New Jersey, Canada and England. Rep. Greene, who serves on the Legislature's Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, was invited to observe the exercise and joined the drill in progress in New London, CT on April 5.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness sponsored the exercise, called Top Officials 3, or TOPOFF3. Connecticut hosted the nation's largest terrorism drill, which included a simulated chemical attack and response that began in the port city of New London. At the same time, a simulated biological incident was staged in New Jersey, along with related exercises in the United Kingdom and Canada. In all, 10,000 people representing more than 200 agencies and volunteer groups participated worldwide.

In New London, officials responded to an imaginary chemical attack by terrorists on a riverfront. The drill setting was extremely realistic and in addition to showcasing their capability to address the emergency, allowed participants to learn how they could fine-tune their responses, said Rep. Greene.

"The degree of preparedness for this test was impressive," said Rep. Greene. "It certainly reinforced my belief that our state has the ability to effectively respond to a major crisis. Watching local, state and federal officials work together demonstrated how much work public safety agencies put into planning for such emergencies."

Rep. Greene represents Beacon Falls, Seymour and Ansonia in the House of Representatives.